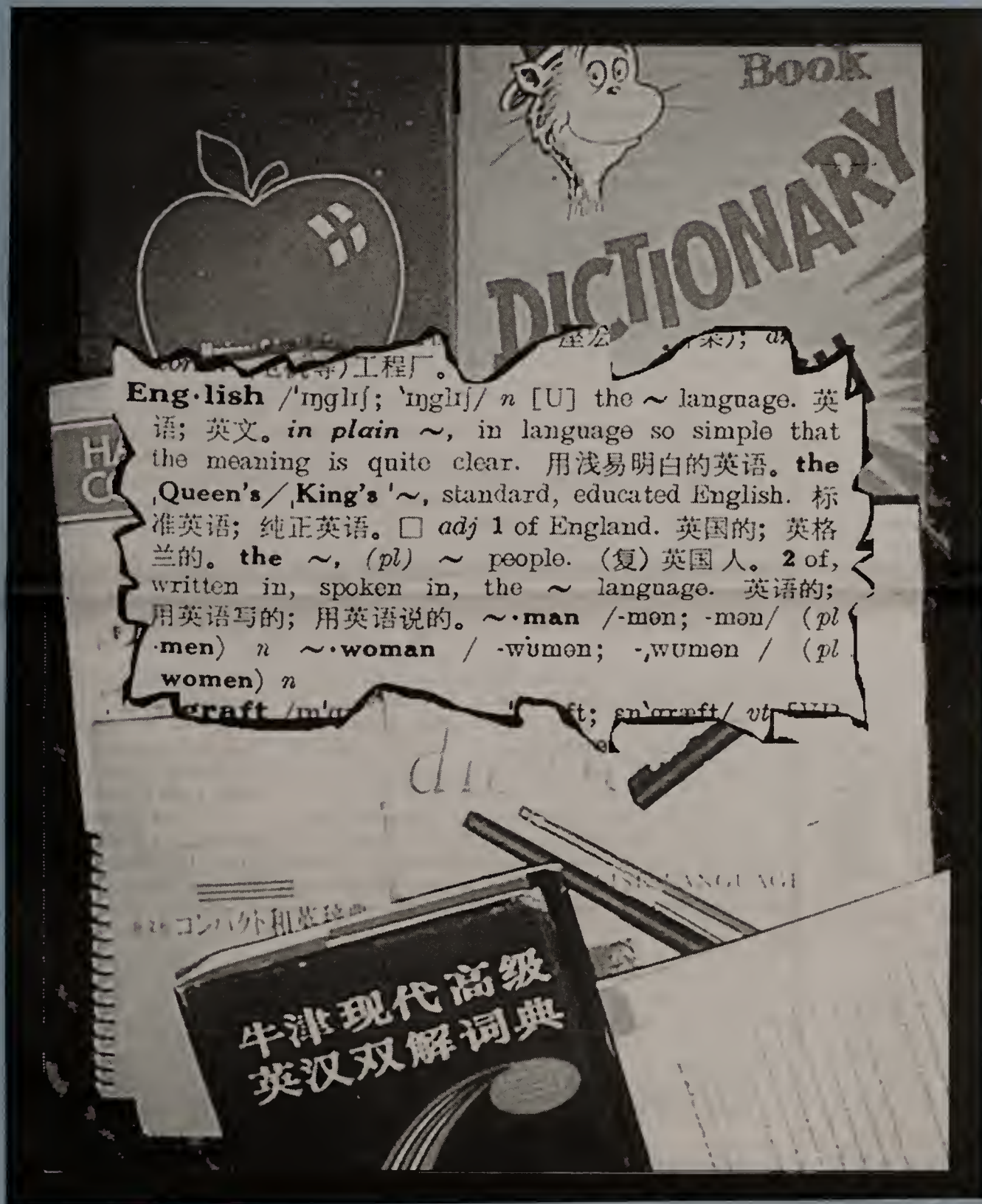




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Bilingual Education Vs. English Immersion: Both Sides Talk

INSIDE: * Mineta on Baseball Card * Opinion: CPA Act * Arts: "Identitea" *

THE SAMPAN

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NOTES & NEWS

Green Card: Don't Leave Home Without It!

It was a sitcom favorite: a man pulls out his wallet to give someone his business card and out falls an exaggerated number of cards of all sorts. Well, it's now going to become a regular inconvenience for immigrants. Because of higher security after Sept. 11, immigrants are being advised to carry with them all their official immigration identification cards and papers: their green card, I-94 card, Employment Authorization card, border crossing card and other papers that have been registered with the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service).

If an immigrant doesn't have these cards when asked for them by a law enforcement officer, that noncitizen could be charged with a misdemeanor crime.

According to the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, "Although the government does not always enforce this law, it could do so at anytime."

In any case, to avoid trouble, take the cards -- just don't lose your wallet!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Construction Students Building a Future at AACCA

Stephen McKenzie, director of apprentice training of the sheet metal workers union, showed the Asian American Civic Association's Work Readiness for Construction Class the union's training site last week.



"A Chinatown Banquet" Exhibit Enjoys Packed Reception



The reception for "A Chinatown Banquet" at the Dreams of Freedom museum packed in a crowd on Nov. 6. For more information see calendar

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Notes from the Chinatown Safety Meeting

By Adam Smith

The Chinatown Safety Committee discussed crime statistics, Centerfolds, community preparation for the War on Terrorism and a new restaurant during the monthly Chinatown Safety Meeting on Nov. 7 at the Double Tree Hotel conference room.

Chinatown crime talk began when Boston Police Department Sergeant Tom Lema discussed October crime rates in Chinatown and bordering districts, such as the Leather and Theater district. He showed that when comparing the Oct. 2000 statistics to the 2001 statistics, Chinatown has seen a drop in the number of drug and prostitution arrests, but a slight increase in the number of arrests for assaults, armed robberies and break-ins.

Next Lema and other police talked about the problems of homeless people wandering the streets of Chinatown. The police said that they were trying to keep these people moving, and that most of them don't cause trouble. But Lema reminded that "if you are approached by an aggressive person, call 911."

"The biggest problem in Chinatown is that nobody calls because they're afraid to or whatever, but if you do, we can knock these problems down," Sergeant Tom Lema.

He stressed that perpetrators will frequent areas where they know they won't be reported and that residents "shouldn't go out and hit them with a broom," but that they should call the police if they see suspicious activity or people.

"They can even be arrested for drinking in public," he said.

The crime discussion then lead to the seemingly defused topic of Centerfolds. The strip bar has been trying to open on La Grange St. in Chinatown and so far it only has a temporary liquor license. But, this week it will be announced if the joint gets an entertainment license

from the city. This would allow for nude dancing in the club and would certainly be at least a symbolic blow for Chinatown residents who fear a revived Combat Zone.

"You should have seen La Grange Street 20 years ago. It was a cesspool," said one committee member.

"If they get the license, and (residents) picket the club every night... they will have to (eventually) close," said Lema. He said that constant late-night picketing would deter customers, thus reduce the club's profits.

Next came talk about how Chinatown and other Boston neighborhoods should prepare in case of a disaster or terrorist attack. People

were reminded to encourage families to review safety plans with their children and for landlords, school faculty, and business owners

to review emergency plans so that large-scale evacuations would go smoothly. Also, some committee members discussed that Boston needs to have medical and emergency information in many languages so that all people here could be properly informed. They said that this was a community effort and all in the community should be proactive. One such way to be proactive is to attend the a bomb squad presentation, tonight (Nov. 16) at 6:30 at the Mass Pike Towers Community Room or to attend the Chinatown Neighborhood Council Meeting on Mon. (Nov. 19) at 6 p.m. at St. James Church.

Before the talk of crime and Sept. 11, the meeting was opened with talk of a new restaurant in Chinatown. Reggie Wong announced his plans for the Pacific Garden restaurant, which he hopes to open where the Asia Garden restaurant used to be, on 44-46 Beach Street. He requested the Safety Committee's support for a beer and wine license for the 75-seat eatery that would be open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

"We will send it (your request) along to the Neighborhood Council for recommendation," said Bill Moy of the Chinatown Neighborhood Council.

Second CYI Meeting for Chinatown Library Brings Hope

It may be just the beginning, but it appears that the Chinese Youth Initiative's work to get a Chinatown Branch Library is paying off. The Chinese Youth Initiative's second meeting (on Oct. 31) to discuss plans for a Chinatown Branch Library included Bernie Margolis, the Boston Public Library Departments President.

The CYI members discussed with Margolis their vision of a Chinatown library. They said they wanted a library that would address the "digital divide in Chinatown" - the divide of those who have access to computers at home and those who don't, and a library that could serve as a resource center for Asian-American information and Chinese language materials.

Margolis then suggested that the CYI get the Boston Foundation involved. He said the foundation could help collect information, craft a strategy, and bring key players into the library process. It takes lots of community

action and persistence to get a library, he said, adding that it's expensive to run a library -- the average branch has eight or nine full-time staffers who need to be paid. He stressed that the library would need city support and a political will. Library supporters must show why the library will help the community, he said.

According to CYI, the main reasons to have a library are that it could be used by the 1,900 students of the three schools in the area and the many elderly, kids and families who live in Chinatown could also benefit from a library. The closest branch library to the area is the South End Branch Library.

In beginning their goal of getting a library, Members of CYI surveyed 301 area residents to see how they would feel about a new library. Only one person surveyed did not want a library.

Children's Book Author Grace Lin Treats Local Kids

Grace Lin, a children's book author and illustrator, treated local kids by reading from her two newest books, "Red as a Dragon" and "Dim Sum for Everyone." The kids, all born in China and members of the South Shore Chinese

Culture Playgroup for children adopted from China, learned how to say in Mandarin "I can make dumplings," during the Oct. 13 reading. They also made dumplings to take home and eat. During the reading, the kids snacked on dimsum foods, to learn about the meal. Afterwards, they learned the chopstick dance.

Lin also wrote the book "The Ugly Vegetables," and illustrated the book "Round as a Moon Cake." You can visit her Website at www.gracelin.com.



Reading and dim sum Fun!

COVER STORY

Bilingual Education or Not: Both Sides Talk

By Adam Smith

Coming in the Nov. 2002 election, Massachusetts voters will likely have to decide what is the best way for immigrant children to learn English. This won't be an easy decision.

Voters will be able to choose to keep the system of bilingual education that has been in Massachusetts for 30 years, or they will be able to choose to get rid of that system and install a new one that would use a one- to two-year English immersion program. Proponents of each side argue with strength and passion that their idea is best for immigrant kids. Proponents of each side feel the other side would do the state's immigrants a disservice. Which side is right? Only you can decide. Read on.

Since 1971, a Massachusetts law has required that if a school district has at least 20 immigrant students who have a limited ability to speak and comprehend English, and they all speak the same native language, the school committee must establish a program of transitional bilingual education. Each student must be in this bilingual program for three years or until she proves to be competent in English. The student may stay in the program longer, if parents and teachers think she needs to, and she can only exit the program prior to her third year of enrollment if her parents approve and if she has received a high enough score on an English language test. Ideally, when the student enters the program, she begins with about 75% of her class work in her native language, and 25% of her class work in English. During the second year, educators hope to have that ratio become 50% to 50% and by the third year, only 25% of the class work should be in her native language.

This transitional bilingual education program could see its end soon, if Massachusetts voters react to a new initiative the same way that California and Arizona voters did in recent years. Bilingual education programs in those two states were replaced by the English immersion program. Ron Unz, a millionaire software entrepreneur from California, sponsored the campaign that led to their demise and now he's sponsoring the same campaign here. His campaign wants a law requiring that students who are not competent in English be taught the language in a "sheltered" English immersion class that would last one to two years. Once the child acquires "a good working knowledge of English," then she would enter into mainstream classes.

Unz's response to why he wants an end to bilingual education programs? "They just don't work. There's just no evidence that they work... When you have a theory (like the one on which these programs are based) that is this crazy, and it clearly doesn't work, it's not a coincidence. Since the program doesn't work, I think it means that these academics who thought up the program are wrong."

He said that his idea is "pretty straight forward. Students would take all English (for a year) and then move on to take their normal subjects."

But local proponents of the States' existing program disagree with the theory behind Unz's proposal.

"If you can learn a language in one year, then God bless you," said Kevin Moy, the Bilingual and Multicultural Program Specialist at Boston Public Schools.

Moy fears that students will fall behind if they can't learn English quick enough. And he wants so much to hold on to the existing program that he even offers to reassess it and change it if needed.

"Massachusetts is the root of bilingual education... There has been 30 years of Chinese bilingual education (in this state)," said Moy.

Wayne O'Neil, an MIT professor of Linguistics and the Director of the Mind Articulation Project at MIT, also fears of what would happen if Unz gets his way. "A one-year English immersion program is not enough. It can't possibly work... It takes about seven years to learn a language," said O'Neil, who also teaches a course at Wheelock College titled Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition.

So, is Unz just some rich Californian with no real experience educating trying to end a program that some professors and school administrators believe is needed? It's not that simple. Unz supports the Massachusetts campaign financially and politically, but the three co-chairs who helped write the law are educators, writers, researchers, and activists. One of the co-chairs, Rosalie Porter, author of "Forked Tongue: The Politics of Bilingual Education," even started teaching in the state's bilingual program in 1974. Lincoln Tamayo, a principal at Chelsea High School, and Christine Rossell, a professor of political science at Boston University, are her co-chairs. Porter said that she was at first enthusiastic about the program when she started teaching, three decades ago.

"I started teaching in the bilingual education programs because I thought, boy, this will help me help immigrants," said Porter.

"We started this one-size-fits-all program in Massachusetts in 1971. The law stipulates that the students be taught in their native language and that by the end of three years the teaching in their native language would be reduced. The the-

oretical benefits would be teaching in the students' native languages and teaching English slowly - and boy they will do great!

(But) there's very little time to learn English (under this program). It's not the 75% to 25% that it's supposed to be. It's more like 90% native language and 10% English... If you teach children in Spanish for four or five hours a day - then they won't learn English very fast. (It's just like) if you teach kids math for 2 hours a week versus 5 or 6 hours a week, those getting more time will learn better. Many immigrant kids in the bilingual program come from poverty... Giving these kids remedial help in Spanish (or whatever their native language is) and delaying their English education for two, three or four years, will make these kids fall behind. Also the schools have to find texts in Spanish, Chinese, Cambodian... There are basic flaws in this bilingual program. It's not the kids. It's not the teachers. It's the program's basic ideas.

This English Immersion program is very structured. Kids wouldn't be just dropped in it. Within a year or two they will learn English. It will bring together children of different backgrounds and languages. These kids will get to talk to each other in English. The longer learning English is delayed, the more difficult it is to learn."

But what do the students think?

"I think the one-year immersion in English would not be enough. It's too short," said Cindy Lau, a sophomore at Northeastern University. She started the bilingual program at Charlestown high school as a freshman when she moved here from Hong Kong in 1997. She said she learned English in English classes, but her civic studies, computer, biology and math classes

were in Cantonese.

Continued on page 4



Ron Unz, the man supporting the initiative that would end bilingual Education in Massachusetts

Chinese Parents Group Fights for Bilingual Education

By Eric William Schramm

Ron Unz, a Silicon Valley millionaire, has been successful in getting referendums passed in California and in Arizona that essentially ended bilingual education in those states. Now he's supporting a campaign that would do the same here. Under the program that Unz envisions for Massachusetts, students who need bilingual instruction would spend one year in an English immersion class to prepare them to enter the mainstream school population the following year.

Parents, like those in the Chinese Bilingual Advisory Council (CBAC), and other proponents of the state's Bilingual Education Program like Kevin Moy, a bilingual and multicultural program specialist with the Boston Public Schools are aware of the threat that Unz poses to the existing program. So, they have mobilized to help bilingual education survive in Massachusetts.

"(Massachusetts) is the soul of bilingual education... If the program goes down here, so will programs in New York and so on," said Moy.

In order to protect this linchpin program, Moy and some of the parents in the CBAC testified before the Legislature's Joint Education Committee, which held hearings on bilingual education, on May 15.

To show their support for the bilingual program, Susan Fung, an education advisor and a previous co-chair of the CBAC, Marie Oi Wah Chan, current co-chair of the Council, and Chans' daughter and bilingual student, Ann Lei testified before the Committee.

They used creative means to express the importance of the bilingual program. Fung highlighted her testimony with the ancient art of paperfolding, popularly known by its Japanese name, origami. Her point was to show that several parts, or pieces of paper, are necessary to construct a strong educational system. One of those integral parts, in Fung's eyes is the bilingual program.

An immigrant from Hong Kong, Chan testified in Cantonese. She wanted to give the Committee members a sense of the what it is like to only hear a language that is foreign to them, much as English is to many newcomers. Her daughter Ann Lei spoke about her experience in the bilingual program. She entered the program as a high school student at Charlestown High School and graduated on time. Furthermore, she has received a full scholarship from Boston University. Lei is one of five recipients of the BU scholarship. A total of four recipients are from the Chinese bilingual language program.

"She is living proof that the program is doing some good for the students," said

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The Sampan

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COVER STORY

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Ada Lei, a junior at Charlestown high school, agrees. She started the bilingual program in the eighth grade when she came here from Hong Kong.

"I prefer it the way it is," said Lei. "Sometimes you don't know some words in English, and you can ask your teacher in your native language. Sometimes you don't know how to ask in English... I think this is working well." Lei started with about four of her seven classes being taught in Cantonese. She now, three years later, takes about three classes in Cantonese: Precalculus, Chemistry and U.S. History.

Other Options?

"My own view is that the best solution is the two-way programs," said O'Neil. In those programs, part of the day is taught in English and the other part is taught in the student's native language. Native speakers of English would then learn the non-native speakers' language and the non-native speakers would learn English. In Cambridge, there is such a program in which students are learning Spanish. "There's a commitment and it's much more dignifying. Languages are a part of one's identity."

According to Porter, these programs could still exist if the new initiative becomes law.

"The new law allows alternatives like two-way programs and some bilingual teaching, but it makes people have to apply for a waiver to do something other than English Immersion. The present law allows no alternatives—only programs that teach kids in the native language a good part of the school day are legal."

The proposed initiative for Massachusetts would allow students who can't learn English in a year to apply for waivers to continue in native language instruction. However, those classes would be offered only if 20 students in a grade level were granted waivers.

"Of course, foreign language classes of any kind and at any grade level will not be affected," said Porter.

(It also should be noted that under the proposed law if an English-learning child is age 10 or over, and if his principal and teachers think it would be better to teach him with a method other than English immersion, then they may do so.)

"We've given the existing program 30 years. We can afford to give this (proposed one) at least 5 years," said Rosalie Porter, author of "Forked Tongue: The Politics of Bilingual Education."

English Immersion Law, Who Should Decide?

O'Neil stressed that one of his biggest concerns is the procedure in which this new education legislation would undertake to become law. "Massachusetts is very progressive. Every two years there's an effort to get rid of bilingual education. If it gets on the ballot (this time) it will pass, especially after Sept. 11. This state has a very peculiar structure (in that) there's very little local control." He worries that most the people who will vote on this will be people who don't live in areas where there is a high immigrant population, and thus they won't be sensitive to the issue. "Ten years ago people voted for rent control - look what happened. Ending bilingual education will become a state decision. It will not be made by educators."

Porter disagrees. "We are the educators," she said. "This is a democracy. We think intelligent voters should have the right to decide. It passed in California with 61% of the votes, and that state has the largest immigrant population in the country. It passed in Arizona by 70%, and there's a large Hispanic population there," she said.

What Would Teachers in the Bilingual Education Programs Do If the Program Ended?

One easy target for proponents of Unz's plans would be to say that bilingual educators fear only for their jobs. But even Unz himself isn't using that as ammunition.

"The main opposition comes from the bilingual education industry: the bilingual education administrators, professors, text book publishers... A lot of them truly believe that bilingual education is good. They're difficult to persuade... Most of them wouldn't really lose their jobs (so I don't think that's why they don't want to end bilingual education). You'll see the teachers teaching the same subjects in English," said Unz.

When asked if he was worried about losing his job if the initiative were passed into law, Moy said that he would have plenty of teaching opportunities if bilingual education were to be replaced by the immersion program, and that losing his job wasn't a fear of his.

Additionally, Porter thinks that actually a lot of educators aren't satisfied with the current program, but they are afraid to say that in public.

"Many bilingual teachers have called and written to me saying that the bilingual education program doesn't work. But they say that they can't say this in public because they'll be called a racist. Anyone who publicly criticizes it will be said not to be showing respect for language and culture. No one wants to be called a racist... I have credibility because I came here not knowing English," said the Porter whose family came here from Italy when she was six. "I speak four languages. I love speaking other languages."

"We've given the existing program 30 years. We can afford to give this at least 5 years," said Porter.

UPDATE:

On Nov. 13, supporters of Unz's ballot measure announced they collected 100,000 signatures in four weeks. They expect the Secretary of State's office to certify the necessary 57,000 signatures in the next few months. Once the required number of signatures is certified, the petition will go to the Legislature. If it is not adopted by April 30, the Unz's campaign has until July 3 to collect 9,517 signatures to get the issue on the ballot.

The Jargon of Teaching English to Immigrants: What it all means

Every profession has its own jargon -- including English education. Here's some words that you might hear frequently during the bilingual battle, and what they mean:

Children of Limited English-speaking Ability: This refers to children who were not born in the United States and whose native tongue is not English. Because of their inability to understand English, these kids are incapable of performing ordinary class work in English. Children who were born in the United States and have parents who do not speak English, and as a result are also unable to understand English are also included under this term.

Teacher of Transitional Bilingual Education: In the original law, this refers to a teacher who can speak and read a foreign language needed for a school's bilingual education program. That teacher must also have "communicative skills in English."

Program in Transitional Bilingual Education: This is a full-time teaching program, taught in a child's native language and in English, that includes courses that a child is required by law and by the child's school committee to receive. This program includes teaching how to read and write the native language of children who speak limited English, and it includes teaching those children the oral comprehension, speaking, reading and writing of English. Kids in this program are also taught the history and culture of their home country, territory or geographic area and the history and culture of the United States.

English Language Classroom: This term is used in the proposed initiative. It means classrooms that are taught by teachers who are fluent and literate in English. In these class rooms, the teachers will teach "overwhelmingly" in English.

English Language Mainstream Classrooms: In the proposed initiative, this refers to "standard classrooms" in which the students are either native English speakers or non-native English speakers who have adequate fluency in English to handle the course work. This term would be included in the definition of an "English Language Classroom."

English Learner: In the proposed initiative, this refers to a child who does not speak English or whose native language is not English. This child does not know enough English to perform ordinary class work in English.

Sheltered English Immersion: In the proposed initiative, this is a program for "English learners" to learn English. The program is taught nearly all in English. All books and instructional materials are in English, and so is the teaching of all reading, writing and subject matter. "Although teachers may use a minimal amount of the child's native language when necessary, no subject matter shall be taught in any language other than English, and children... shall learn to read and write solely in English."

Who is Ron Unz? A Short Bio of the Man Behind the Initiative to End Bilingual Education

Born in Los Angeles in 1961, Ron Unz holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard University, Cambridge University, and Stanford University, and is a past first-place winner of the American Intel/Westinghouse Science Talent Search. He is a theoretical physicist by training.

Unz has written on issues of immigration, ethnicity, and social policy. His writings have appeared in "The New York Times," "The Wall Street Journal," "The Los Angeles Times," and "The Nation."

In 1997, Unz began the "English for the Children" initiative campaign in California. He drafted Proposition 227 and led the campaign to qualify and pass the measure, culminating in a 61% victory at the polls on June 2, 1998. This installed his English immersion program in the state. He was then successful doing the same in Arizona. Now he's supporting initiatives in Colorado and Massachusetts.

Here's what Unz told Sampan when asked why he started his "English for the Children Campaign": "I came from sort of an immigrant situation myself. My mother came here and spoke no English. She learned English very fast. (I thought), why don't they just teach English right away? The bilingual programs just don't make sense to me. They didn't make sense in junior high, in high school, or in college. Then I read in 1996 about mothers who were protesting (the bilingual education program) in California. It came to the point where people had to picket at schools for English education."

COVER STORY

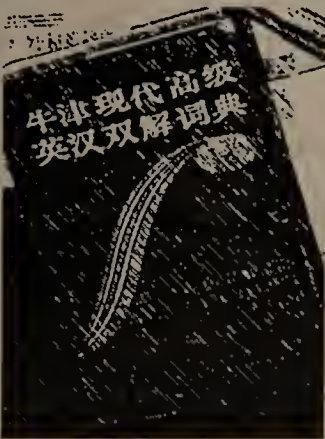
Continued from page 3

Fung.

“Because of the bilingual program, my daughter could get used to the system, which was completely different from the one in Hong Kong,” said Chan. “To put them [students who need bilingual instruction] in a classroom would be very difficult for them. If they can use Cantonese, then they will be willing to ask questions and develop trust with the teacher. This bonding helps with the learning process.”

Besides personal testimony they brought a petition with over 9,000 signatures

“To put them [students who need bilingual instruction] in a classroom would be very difficult for them. If they can use Cantonese, then they will be willing to ask questions and develop trust with the teacher. This bonding helps with the learning process,” Marie Oi Wah Chan



on it supporting the Chinese bilingual program. Charlestown High School, where the Chinese program is located, sees 90% of the students from that program go on to college. Additionally, of last year’s 24 valedictorians in the city, 12 of them were from the bilingual program. One was from the Chinese bilingual program and three were from the Vietnamese bilingual program.

The Chinese Bilingual Advisory Council has started a hotline ((617) 635-7706) for parents whose children are currently in or entering the program. A lot of parents, due to work or lack of time, do not always have access to the information they and their children need, so the hotline was started to help improve the flow of information. Parents may get assistance in either Cantonese or Mandarin.

Myths and Truths Of the Bilingual Battle

Myth: All children enrolled in the transitional bilingual education program must stay in the current bilingual education program for at least three years.

Fact: If the parents of the child approve in writing, and if the child has received a score on an examination which reflects a level of English language skills appropriate to his or her grade level, then the child can exit the program.

Myth: The two-way language program (which teaches non-native English speakers English and native English speakers the native language of the immigrants) would not be allowed under the English immersion program.

Fact: It would be allowed under certain circumstances: If the parents of 20 or more students sign waivers and if schools document the need for such a program, then it will be allowed. Also, if an English-learning child is age 10 or older, and if his principal and teachers think it would be better to teach him with a method other than English immersion, then they may do so.

Myth: Teachers in the current bilingual education program would likely lose their jobs if the proposed initiative were passed into law.

Fact: Most teachers, as long as they are fluent in English, would be unlikely to lose their jobs teaching.

Myth: A child can only stay in the existing bilingual education program for three years.

Fact: If a child shows that he or she does not have adequate command of English after the three years, he or she may be re-enrolled in the program.

Myth: Ron Unz wrote the initiative that is proposed for Massachusetts.

Fact: Unz supports financially and politically the initiative, but three other people helped with the writing of the initiative. Those people are Rosalie Porter, author of “Forked Tongue: The Politics of Bilingual Education,” Lincoln Tamayo, a principal at Chelsea High School, and Christine Rossell, a professor of political science at Boston University.

Myth: The proposed law would not allow the English Immersion class teachers to speak in the native language of an English learner.

Fact: Though the teachers are not required to speak in a child’s native language, and though these classes must be taught in English, the teachers may at “appropriate” times help the children in their native language. Also, native language tutors and aids are allowed in the classrooms.

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Boston Connects, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 2001 at 6PM

The meeting will be held at Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries, located at 1010 Harrison Avenue in Roxbury.

The agenda will include
Amendment of the By-laws.

AKI HAIR STUDIO

TAMMY HUANG

Former NEWBURY STREET STYLIST

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OPINION

Community Preservation Act Voted Down, But the Voting Spirit In Chinatown Gets Stronger

By Lydia Lowe

The Community Preservation Act lost at the polls on November 6, with 43 percent of voters opposing and 32 percent supporting the effort to establish a fund for affordable housing, open space, and historic preservation. But the story hidden between the lines is that the ballot question won big in certain neighborhoods such as Chinatown, Jamaica Plain, and the Fenway, where residents are actively organizing against gentrification and overdevelopment. Some of these communities are newly active on the political scene, with the potential to become bigger political players.

In Ward 3 Precinct 8, encompassing Chinatown and the Leather District, the ballot question won by a greater than two-to-one margin. Forty eight percent supported and 20 percent opposed, while 32 percent of voters did not make a choice, with some voters saying that they couldn't locate the question because of the confusing layout of the ballot. There were 580 total votes cast at the Quincy School. The question also won in Ward 5 Precinct 1, which includes Mass Pike Towers, South Cove Plaza, and

Castle Square, parts of the South End and Bay Village. At the Franklin Institute, 774 total votes were cast. While such detailed numbers will not be reported in the citywide media, what they in fact demonstrate is Chinatown residents' growing understanding of the political process. In an immigrant community generally perceived as having few votes, turnout was good as a result of both support for the ballot question and for the mayor.

When I was standing in front of the Franklin Institute on election night handing out poll cards for Question 1, I chatted about the day's voter turnout with a white South End resident. He noted that turnout seemed high from the Chinese residents, especially the elderly. When I mentioned that turnout at the Quincy School was also high, he laughed and joked, "How many was that? Twenty people?" When I told him that there were more than 500, he was clearly impressed. Equally impressive is the fact that growing numbers of Chinese immigrant residents are learning about the political process and voting on ballot questions.

These facts do not go unnoticed by political candidates and elected officials, who are increasingly

paying attention to Chinatown events in general and to Chinatown residents in particular. But we need to translate this attention into more concrete results, not only appearances at festivals and events. Since last year's presidential election, the Chinese Progressive Association began working with the Chinatown Resident Association to sponsor impartial voter education workshops in housing developments throughout Chinatown. The workshops have typically covered questions that immigrant voters have, such as: Where do I vote? What do I need to bring? What happens when I go to the polls? What is on the ballot? How do I use the machine? Each participant is given a blank practice ballot, which can be marked as the person considers the candidates' positions or the pros and cons of a ballot question. The practice ballot can then be taken by the voter to the polls to expedite the voting process. Although many Chinatown voters may be disappointed to learn that we lost the Community Preservation Act vote, we can take heart in the fact that we are learning, step by step, to exercise our political clout.

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Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC), a community-based, non-profit organization, seeks candidates for the above position. See the ACDC website: www.asiancdc.org, or call (617) 482-2380 ext. 201 to request job description.

TOWN OF BROOKLINE

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The Brookline Public Library is seeking an experienced bookkeeper or accounting professional to prepare purchase orders, process accounts payable and payroll, maintain budget forms and prepare reports as needed. High school, training in accounting and two years of accounting experience required. Must have excellent communication and computer skills. 37 hours per week. \$674.16 per week, with generous benefits.

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News Commentary

Topps Hits Home Run: Mineta on a Baseball Card!

By Rodney Jay C. Salinas

It is often said that the true test of a person's mettle is how he or she responds to a crisis. Is she calm and confident? Is he overwhelmed and unfocused? If a person's response to crises is truly a testament to a individual's character, then Norman Y. Mineta is too good to be true.

Over the past few weeks, as the world responds to the tragedies of September 11, we've all looked to our own nation's leaders for guidance, leadership and ultimately, comfort. As an Asian Pacific American, I've been

particularly following the actions of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta.

As the first Asian Pacific American member of a President's Cabinet, Secretary Mineta has been a history-maker all his life. Along with

thousands of other Japanese Americans, he was interned during World War II as an "enemy of the state." And although he's never forgotten about that experience, he certainly hasn't let it bring him down either.

Secretary Mineta went on to become an elected official in his hometown of San Jose, California, and was eventually elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. As a Congressman, he became a national civil rights leader and an expert in transportation and aviation issues. And when he was sworn in as then-Commerce Secretary under President Bill Clinton in 2000, I was lucky enough to be there in person.

But now, Secretary Mineta is certainly facing one of the most difficult challenges of his career in public service. As Transportation Secretary, he is charged with securing our nation's roads, waterways, and air space. That's a tall order considering the continued threat of additional terrorist attacks.

A few weeks ago, 60 Minutes aired a program about Secretary Mineta and his minute-by-minute account of September 11. As I sat in my chair, glued to the television screen, I listened as he detailed how he was brought to the White House situation room immediately after the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center. Secretary Mineta went on to talk about his demeanor and the reactions of the people with him in the room, including President George W. Bush.

But as with all crises, there is always a singular defining moment - a small window of opportunity to make a life-altering decision. That moment came when Secretary Mineta had to decide what to do about the thousands of other airplanes that were flying in American airspace after the two hijacked planes had already hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. For Secretary Mineta, the decision was clear - he ordered every single plane flying over America to find the nearest airport and land. And within a few short hours, the skies were totally cleared.

It's difficult to speculate just what might have happened if Secretary Mineta had not grounded those airplanes. No one will ever know how many more terrorists were aboard other flights who were just waiting to make their move. And we'll never fully appreciate the intense pressure involved in ordering thousands of

planes to land without causing an international panic.

But in that singular defining moment, Secretary Mineta made history, yet again.

If anything, the events of the last few weeks have proven that the American spirit is diverse and strong. And for Asian Pacific Americans, that sentiment is even more significant. For decades, the image of the perpetual foreigner has been unfairly cast on millions of Asian Pacific Americans. The community, despite all of its contributions to American history and democracy, has often been relegated to second-class citizenship, whose loyalty is almost automatically questioned when an single ounce of xenophobia surfaces.

To substantiate this point, one need only read about the hundreds of cases of Sikh Americans who have been harassed, and in some cases, murdered, because they "look like" some of the alleged terrorists. These fellow citizens have done nothing more than follow their religion and they are being persecuted because of it. I can think of nothing more un-American than that.

Ultimately, in his quest to be an excellent Cabinet Secretary and an upstanding American, Norman Mineta has become so much more. He has demonstrated a love of this country that far exceeds verbal explanation. And in the process, he is showing the rest of the nation that America is not about looks. As the great Filipino American historian, Carlos Bulosan, wrote in his title book, "America is in the heart."

As if his heroism were not enough, Secretary Mineta might also be the first non-athlete to be featured as part of a collectible trading card set. Topps, Inc., the same company that produces trading cards for professional sports teams and cartoons like Pokemon, have created a new trading card series entitled, "Enduring Freedom." The set includes 90 cards with pictures of President Bush, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, the men and women on the front lines, and yes, even our own Norman Mineta. You can't get any more American than that, folks.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rodney Jay C. Salinas is President of the Rainmaker Political Group LLC, publishers of PoliticalCircus.com, an online source for political news and information for the Asian Pacific American community. You can email him at mail@rainmakerpolitical.com.

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Responsible for labor organizing with the Association and carrying out all activities of the Association related to labor relations and collective bargaining matters. Accountable to the Director of Labor Relations. Works as the Coordinator through the organizing campaign; Keeps up-to-date with current NLRB rulings related to organizing within health care industry and related health care matters; Responds to RN's and Health Care Professionals (HCP's), seeking collective bargaining information; Develops contacts throughout the state at all unorganized health care facilities. **Qualifications:** Labor Relations exp. - min. two years. Knowledge of organizing law, both private and public sectors. Advanced education in labor relations pref. Exp. and knowledge of the health care profession and exp. as a local unit leader desirable; organizing exp. pref.

UNIT 7 COORDINATOR MNA LABOR PROGRAM

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Positions available immediately; application deadline November 26; salary commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits. To apply send resume to: Julie Pinkham, RN, Executive Dir., Massachusetts Nurses Association, 340 Turnpike Street, Canton, MA 02021. The MNA is an AA/EEO



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SAMPAN

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\$24.99 two issues

We offer free translation English/Chinese during the promotion. For an additional \$10, you can have your ads in Chinese version as well.

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Newspaper, informs the Boston area and beyond, about issues close to Asian Americans and those concerned with the Asian American community. It provides a marketplace for goods and service pertinent to the needs and interests of Chinese and Asian communities.

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ARTS

A Hot Cup of "IDENTItea": Exhibit Overview

By Soh H. Tan

When the Asian American Artists Roundtable Series in Malden opened its art exhibit, "IDENTItea," at SPACE@16 Gallery in Malden, the group celebrated with a "tea tasting ceremony in kung-fu-style." Most Americans who hear the words "kung-fu tea" would likely think they were hearing the title of a new Jackie Chan flick. But, actually, "kung-fu tea" or "kung-fu cha" means "brewed with great skill." And that was exactly how the oolong tea from Taiwan that was served at the reception was prepared - with great skill. Perhaps it was a taste of what was to come: an art exhibit of paintings, art installations, poetry and 'tea art' by artists Tie Li, Elise Mannella, Lauren O'Neal, Yosh Sanbonmatsu, Sand T, Lawrence Wong, and Wes Kalloch.



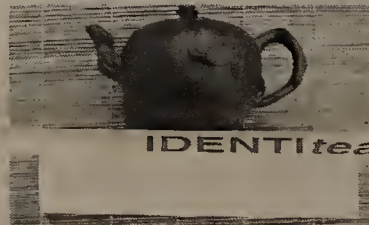
The Artists and Their Works in "IDENTItea"

"The human body as an important subject matter has a long history in Western art, and particularly in contemporary art. It is a major site for artistic statements, but also social, political and cultural statements," said Tie Li, whose "Acupuncture Series," makes up part of the "IDENTItea" exhibit. His paintings explore concepts of the body in relation to traditional Chinese medicine.

The artist moved from Beijing, China to the United States in 1987 and graduated from San Diego State University in California with an M.F.A. in Painting and Printmaking. He informally studied acupuncture, and is fascinated by the practice.

The "Acupuncture Series" is Tie's artistic look at how we view the human body. It looks at the past and present, ideas of the East and West, medical tradition and innovation. His oil paintings are disturbing, dark, confrontational, and ambiguous, and yet quite stimulating.

Elise Mannella, who earned an MFA in sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, contributed her mixed media piece, "Love Tea," which explores social and cultural identity. The work is a small wood tea box decorated with rose buds around its open rim. Next to the box is its cover, which is decorated with a collage of fortune-telling pieces of paper. "To offer someone tea is a form of graciousness and caring, of paying attention to an individual. To pay attention to someone is a form of love," said the artist. Mannella also displays her series of three prints she created using Polaroid transfer on rag paper.



Lauren O'Neal contributed to "IDENTItea" her "The Tea Cups Series," which is six mixed-media collages exploring tea, gender roles and the notion of tea-drinking. "I want to explore the notion of tea-drinking in Western... American culture as specifically a 'feminine' activity... and (I want to) offer ways to counter the limitations associated with that connotation," said O'Neal, who is the executive director of the Arlington Center for the Arts.

Yosh Sanbonmatsu, a retired English Teacher, considers himself more social critic than painter. He is the director for the Gallery of Social/Political Art in Boston. His works look at the United States' involvement in Asia. One of his works, "Poston," is about Japanese internment during World War II. "The problem of ethnicity has more or less been the context of my life," said Sanbonmatsu, who was born in California. "I was brought up like many Asians, to believe in social harmony and therefore be deferential to circumstances and the social order... the civil rights and anti-war movements of the Sixties changed me... the realities of American policy and politics, both domestic and foreign, obliterated that deference."

Other works of his at the exhibit are an oil painting titled, "Vietnam Memorial," and a work he created with Sand T, entitled "For All the Tea in China," which takes a satirical look at the Boston Tea Party.

Sand T, who completed her Museum Studies and graduated from Tufts University with a Masters Degree in Fine Arts in painting, displays her series of mixed media paintings entitled "Re." This series of four paintings is the unfolding of four artists, including the works' creator, Sand T. The paintings reveal each artist's thoughts, identities and personalities, and attempts to look at a common problem from different perspectives. Each perspective expressed in the works might or might not help to resolve the problem, and essentially the acts of expressing, listening, judging, and the accepting of each others' perspective are left.

Lawrence Wong a MFA graduate from University of Massachusetts Dartmouth uses computer-generated text and paprika powder to create an art installation entitled "Passport 101." With this piece, Lawrence addresses his national identity of being from Hong Kong. His works are rows of five 3.5" x 5" squares of paprika. Each square represents a passport and includes a computer-generated text describing his citizenship during a particular time period. "Despite the changing of my citizenship descriptions I am still the Lawrence Wong who keeps defining his social, culture, and self identity through art making."

Wes Kalloch, who earned BS in Landscape Horticulture from University of Maine, creates collage artwork using plants, magazine page cut outs, and other objects. His work in "IDENTItea" is two mixed media on wood pieces entitled "No problem." The collage works are meant to be a light-hearted display of his confusion of living as a white Anglo-Saxon protestant man.

About the Asian American Artists Roundtable

"IDENTItea" is the Asian American Artists Roundtable's fifth art event. The AAAR is a project created by the Great Wall Center, Inc., SPACE@16, and the Malden Asian Pacific American Coalition/Asian Spectrum TV Series. The project hosts a series of art exhibits, panel discussions, slide shows, and interviews, which occur at Asian Spectrum/MATV Studio in Malden; SPACE@16, and the Great Wall Center, Inc. in Malden.

For more information about AAAR Series, call Richard Cheng at the Great Wall Center, Inc., (781) 388-6931 or e-mail, wprichardcheng@juno.com, or call Sand T at SPACE@16, (781) 322-6851 or e-mail, sandtgallery28@aol.com

Poetry Translation by Taylor Stoehr

Ballad of the Army Wagons

Wagons rumbling, horses whinnying,
soldiers with bows and arrows swinging at their belts.
Running after them fathers mothers wives children say-
ing goodbye at Hsiang-Yang Bridge.
The soldiers disappear in a cloud of dust.
Their families are left crowding the roadway,
rending their garments and stamping their feet.
Their lamentations rise to the very heavens.

A traveler myself, I questioned a soldier
as they marched by, and this was his reply:

"They're calling us up again,
those who went north at fifteen to defend the Yellow
River,
conscripted now at forty for the camps out west. When
we left, our village elders
had to tie our headbands for us.
We've come back with grey hair
to yet another tour of duty!

"The frontiers run with seas of blood
and still the Emperor thinks only of expansion, while
here at home thousands of villages
are going back to briars and brambles.
Even if there's a stout wife to put her hand to the plough
the furrows run every which way in the fields.
And how do they treat old soldiers once we get to Ch'in?
They drive us like dogs or chickens!

"You do well to ask questions, Sir,
poor devils like us don't dare to complain.

"Take this winter for instance -
the last levy of troops isn't back yet from the far West
and already the District Officers are demanding the
grain tax.
Where is the grain supposed to come from?
Nowadays the birth of a son is a disaster!
You're lucky if you have a daughter -
she can at least marry out of the family.

You might as well bury a son in the pasture."

The faraway shores of the Kokonor
are strewn with unburied bones.
The newly dead wail and ancient spirits weep
under dark and drizzling skies.
Their voices twitter like birds at twilight.
-Tu Fu

CALENDAR

meetings

The next Chinatown Neighborhood Council Meeting is Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. at 125 Harrison Ave.

A Bomb squad presentation is tonight, Nov. 16, at 6:30 at the Mass Pike Towers Community Room

arts

"Kenro Izu: Sacred Places," an exhibit of works by photographer Kenro Izu, is in on display through Dec. 2 at the Peabody Essex Museum. Peabody Essex Museum, East India Sq. (Essex & New Liberty Streets), Salem; (800) 745-4054 or visit www.pem.org. \$15.

"A Chinatown Banquet Exhibit" runs through Feb. 17 at the International Institute of Boston's Dreams of Freedom Museum, Chiu Gallery, One Milk St., Boston. The show is made up of works by artists, community activists and high school students and explores the forces that shaped and influenced Boston's Chinatown. Call (617) 482-2380, Ext. 204.

The Asian American Artists Roundtable Series in Malden's art exhibit "IDENTItea" is at the gallery SPACE@16, 16 Princeton Road in Malden to Dec.15. Call (781) 322-6851.

Ms. Jin Qin performs the gu-zheng, an ancient Chinese stringed instrument in a Chinese Traditional Music Recital on Dec. 1, 10-11 a.m., at the Malden Public Library, 36 Salem St., Malden. Call (781) 324-0218. Free.

workshops

A Women of Color Financial Empowerment Workshop, the last of a series of six, is tomorrow, Nov. 17, 2-4 p.m. at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Call (617) 354-8807.

劍橋合唱團十一日晚假麻省理工學院 Kresge 音樂廳舉行「祈禱與和諧之夜」冬季公演，同時為九一一事件的受難者家屬募款。此次該團與紐英倫華美協會(OCA-NE)合作，所有募得款項將由 911Healinghands Organization 捐給美國紅十字會、United Way 911 基金，以及紐約亞裔華人基金會所設的 Asian American Federation WTC Fund 等相關急難救助基金。

駐波士頓台北經濟文化辦事處副處長王慶康於致詞中希望大家發揮人溺己溺、愛屋及烏的精神多捐錢幫助災民。文化組組長郭秋義則推崇劍橋合唱團近年來的努力與成果。

紐英倫華美協會會長謝重光表示，若捐款人無特別指示，則這些錢將用在幫助亞裔罹難者家屬及受波及的紐約華埠上。



當天晚上演出由莊璧華指揮，劉子菁伴奏，此外還有波士頓音樂學院、紐英倫音樂學院以及波士頓大學學生擔任管絃樂伴奏演出。曲目包括佛瑞「安魂」選曲、台灣原住民歌曲「山海歌」、「教我如何不想他」、「阮若打開心的門窗」、「春風擺動楊柳稍細曲」、「雨夜花」、「祝福」、歌劇「悲慘世界」選曲、爵士歌曲等。

謝重光表示，當晚一共募得約一千元左右。而大波士頓文協(CCA)稍後也表示加入此項捐款活動，將已募得二千五百二十元加入，使這項捐款總金額達到三千五百二十元，將全數捐給 911Healinghands Organization。

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劍橋合唱團冬季公演 籲大家為九一一事件獻愛心

華埠饗宴 探索歷史文化

亞美社區發展協會、會展協會社區發展主任劉繼明、多媒體藝術家 Mike Blocketer 及九位高中學生所策劃製作的「華埠饗宴」(Chinatown Banquet)於本月九日下午五時半至七時半舉行開幕茶會。

華埠饗宴自二零零年十月開始籌畫，至今年六月左右大致完成。主要探討波士頓華埠的成長發展與受到的各種衝擊與影響。目標是希望提升和更廣泛地讓所有民衆了解波城華埠的歷史、文化和近況。



Spring Valley Homes

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請親往洽詢獎學金申請辦法

亞裔勞工應慎定計劃 應付日漸高漲的健保費

亞裔在美國主流社會工作，健康保險是不可或缺的。那些面臨健保費率在近十年中驚人漲幅的勞工其實可以大幅降低保險成本——只要他們願意重新審核自己的計畫。

金融規劃師們指出，在購買明年度的健保計畫時，夫婦投保人應該比較彼此的計畫，單身投保人應該重新考量自己的選擇，以期避免成本增加百分之十五、甚至百分之百的局面出現。Employee Benefits Research Institute

資深研究合夥人弗朗斯廷(Paul Fronstin)指出，過去幾年當中，僱主增加了自己繳付的份額，沒有將高成本轉移到員工頭上。「勞工們不必自己做出這一決定，」弗朗斯廷稱，「強勢經濟和緊張的勞動力市場自然會驅使僱主打開荷包。」俄亥俄州Toledo的執業金融規劃師庫伯(Chris Cooper)指出，通常，保費成本總是可以得到控制的，透過選擇稅前儲蓄帳戶或者比較自己和配偶的最高限額、扣繳額度和覆蓋範圍等，都可以達到這一目標。擁有允許稅前繳付的健保計畫的勞工可謂得天獨厚，比如，參照聯邦和地方的有關稅務法規，一名這樣的員工只需支付六十五美元就可以享受他人支付一百美元才能享受的保險。

此外，他們還可以藉此降低自己的資薪應付稅額。已婚夫婦可以對雙方的計畫進行比較，選擇一份更划算的作為共同的計畫。購買自助計畫的夫婦也應該進行類似的審核。「首先需要考量的的是每一計畫的最高限額，」他指出，「如果你的計畫限額是十萬美元，而你的先生的限額是一百萬美元，那麼他的計畫就會被默認為你的。」許多機構健保計畫的最高限額都在二十萬美元，雖然限額愈高，就那些面臨健保費率在近十年中驚人漲幅的勞工其實可以大幅降低保險成本——只要他們願意重新審核自己的計畫。金融規劃師們指出，在購買明年度的健保計畫時，夫婦投保人應該比較彼此的計畫，單身投保人應該重新考量自己的選擇，以期避免成本增加百分之十五、甚至百分之百的局面出現。

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同其它保單相比，健保計畫擁有更高的扣繳額度和更廣泛的覆蓋範圍，足以經受最嚴酷局面的考驗。此外，你還必須考量計畫的覆蓋範圍，是否將你可以遇到的各種身體或者精神健康問題、在門診以及家中享受健康護理的情況包括在內。庫伯指出，選擇一份雖然廉價、但是覆蓋範圍狹窄的計畫看似經濟，但是卻意味著你必須自己負擔術後恢復、婚姻諮詢等開支的危險。

此外，夫婦雙方還必須考量誰的保單對退休後的生活照顧得更為週全。「只有百分之十的僱主提供可以用於退休後的健保計畫，」庫伯稱，「這是一

社區簡訊

• 本月十六日(星期五)晚間六時半於華埠公路村社區交誼廳(Community Room)將有一場有關鄰里安全的演說。主講人為波士頓地區防暴小組警官Ivan S, 此外也將說明有關炭疽熱的防治, 緊急事故的應變等。活動免費, 歡迎參加。查詢請洽公路村經理Fannie Kwan, 電話: (六一七)四二六六一六五。

• 塔夫大學醫學院學生代表董在十一月二十七日星期二下午十二時半至兩時半於華美福利會舉行「如何防治肝炎座談會」, 費用全免, 詳情請洽617-423-9492 ext. 212鄧小姐。

• 波士頓華商會和華人醫務中心推廣及教育科將於本月二十一日(星期三)下午三時三十分假華埠龍鳳大酒樓三樓聯合舉辦「一起來填助學金申請表」講座。高等教育諮詢中心是由聯邦、州政府、高等院校和波士頓公立學校系統資助成立的非營利機構。自一九八四年該中心成立以來, 平均每年有七萬多人在該中心幫助下獲得助學金。主辦單位希望有意申請助學金的華裔學生和家長切勿錯過該寶貴機會。講座將以中文進行, 完全免費, 歡迎參加, 詳情請洽: (六一七)四二六四三三八。

• 大波士頓地區台大校友會為慶祝母校五十六週年校慶, 將於十二月一日(星期六)下午六時三十分假華埠龍鳳酒樓舉行校慶聚餐。餐費每人三十五元, 但在十一月廿四日以前報名繳費者每位僅收廿八元。學生會員及家屬每人二十元。為方便籌備工作, 主辦單位呼籲有意參加活動的校友在廿四日前報名繳費, 也歡迎尚未歸隊的台大校友參加。查詢可洽吳紹中: (781) 862-4965, setung@hotmail.com。

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學位證書、專業證書哪個重要？

隨著資訊技術 (Information Technology) 的飛速發展，越來越多的技術人員被吸引到這一高薪、高科技領域中來。想投身 IT 圈，沒有學位證書也不要緊，只要有技術證書就行。

顯然，從事 IT 行業的工作，不必一定要有學位證書。那麼，是不是說在實際工作中，技術證書比學位證書重要呢？事實上，並不盡然，因為學位證書和技術證書有著各自的側重點，我們不能片面地去看它們的部分功效。這裡，我們不妨分別看一下具備 IT 學位與技術證書的各自優勢。

學位證書：職場加速器

完成大學學位，證明你將來工作的能力。技術證書也能作到這一點，但沒有學位證書有效。大學課程會要求你學習一些與專業並無太大關係的課程，而技術培訓則只要學習本專業知識就行了。那麼，為什麼還要學那些和你將來職業無關的課程呢？

學習 IT 專業範圍以外的課程，你將具備很多專業周邊的知識，而且還會掌握交流、合作、商業技巧等。這些也許是在技術培訓中永遠都學不到的。但是，大部分的公司主管還是願意僱用已經掌握了專業工作技能的人，而不願意去冒險找一個生手。

當然，如果在接受大學教育之前，你就已經擁有一定的技能，那是最好不過了。但學習大學課程從某個角度來說，能強制性保證你掌握這些用於將來工作的知識技能。如果你的目標是更高的領域，並且希望有一天成為總裁的話，那麼獲取學位會更有助於你成功。

取得大學學位不僅要學習理論和應用，還要接受一些基礎性的教育，如人類學、社會科學及傳播學等，這些學習有助於增強學生的社會競爭力。大學學

習也能同樣會對普通技術人員有幫助，這是因為大學學習使他們工作更趨於規範化，更富有團隊精神。

通過取得有關的 IT 學位，你可以進入更加多彩的 IT 領域。完成一、二年級的基礎課程學習後，課程變得越來越專業化，在前兩年的學習期間，你會遇到選擇職業類型的機會，而在技術培訓中，可能就沒有這樣的機會。大學學習能使你從不同的高度去俯瞰你的未來。有著大學學歷的人能夠更加合理地思考問題，看問題的視野更加廣闊。

應該取得學位的最後一個理由是你公司需要這樣的人。如果你打算沿 IT 職業台階升級，總會有一些人在某個地方，希望你至少要有個學士學位。

另一方面，如果你感興趣做短期工作，證書則可能是成功的全部必備條件。

雖然大學學位有著這些優點，但是，如果你僅僅有學位，那麼，在你同僅有證書的人員競爭時，它還不能提供壓倒性的優勢。比如說，取得學位既耗金錢，也費時間，而技術的發展又是日新月異，追逐浪潮。這樣，你在大學學的基礎課程等到你要參加工作時，也許早已過時。再則，不管你在大學裏學了多少額外的軟件技術或是生意技巧，為了在工作上取得成功，你還得學習一些日常實際的知識。

技術證書：職業敲門磚

技術證書除了能帶來明顯的經濟利益外，技術培訓能提供最多的有關 IT 領域的信息。技術培訓教材上的知識和明確的工作任務與 IT 職業結合緊密。由於技術培訓提供的是實用的技術知識，所以，很多公司在找專業人員時，都找持有 IT 技術證書的人員，以便能很快、很好地工作。

這些認證證書代表他們經受過不同的、專業的、具體的培訓，在獲取技術證書的過程中他們學到了他們所需要的專業知識。而在大學學位的學習中，所有的內容都在黑板上寫著，可是學生連一半都記不下來。

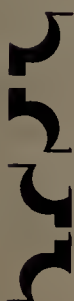
技術證書的另一個好處是它的直接性，對成人學生來說，這點尤為重要。現實就是這樣的，取得一個學位至少要花四年時間努力，這並不像把晚飯擺在桌子上那麼容易。而當 IT 工作市場緊俏時，顧主需要的是能立即投入工作的、熟練的技術人員。這時，不管有沒有學位，你都可以拿你的技術證書作為敲門磚。

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如今，IT 職場越來越強調終身學習的重要性。這就意味著雖然四年的大學學習在交流技巧以及學習方法上使人長久受益，但它同實際工作需要的技巧聯繫越來越少，終身學習的觀念和學位正在越來越脫節。

在美國的高等教育中，學位的意義正在減小，之所以如此，是因為目前更需要終身教育。具有 IT 學位的雇員經常談到，雖然他們擁有大學學位，感覺很不簡單，但所學知識很少能用於工作。

學位證書與技術證書究竟哪個更為重要，關鍵還是取決於你將來想做什麼。如果你計劃進入管理領域，取得學位就顯得更加重要。



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知識型海外華人：耀眼的群體

海外華人結構的改變

海外華人（包括華僑和外籍華人）的結構隨著時代在不斷地變化。很長一段時間內，這種變化是相對緩慢的。但隨著中國的改革開放，封閉的國門被打開，大批的留學人員出國，導致了海外華人結構的一次突變。最重要的一點，就是在海外華人中形成了一個知識型群體。

以前，海外華人的主要生存方式以餐飲業等傳統行業為主。在法國，二十世紀八十年代初，中餐飲食業占整個華人經濟總量的百分之五十以上。其它華人經營比較多的行業有皮革、制衣、雜貨、珠寶、書店、理髮店、旅館等等。這些行業的特點是投資小、家庭式、手工為主，基本上沒有高科技成分。即使是在美國，二十年前進入高科技領域的華人依然是屈指可數。

中國改革開放後，大量的留學人員奔赴海外，知識型海外華人的比例上升。據估計，目前在海外的中國大陸專業人才超過了三十萬人。另外，早期到國外的海外華人的后代，在中華民族重視教育的傳統熏陶下，在父母的全力經濟支持下，都接受了良好的教育，也正在跳出父母一代傳統的行業，進入白領階層和當地主流社會。

如今在海外，雖然中餐館仍然遍布各地，但其它行業，特別是與高科技接軌的行業卻越來越多。華人在計算機行業中的地位世人皆知，華人開辦計算機商店、計算機軟件公司、網絡通信公司非常普遍。新一代的海外華人不甘心于傳統的謀生方式，本身也具有專業優勢和技術能力，海外知識型華人的地位和作用發生了顯著的變化。

知識型海外華人的地位

本人曾經有過這樣的經歷：遇上初識的法國朋友，他們往往先入為主，以

為我在巴黎是從事與中國商品有關的職業。當聽說我是在大學教書的，馬上提問是不是教中文。再聽說我是教計算機科學的，便瞪大了眼睛，顯出不可思議狀。這是十年前的狀況。現在，法國人對中國學者在大學和科研機構工作已習以為常了。這表明了海外華人在餐飲等行業中站穩腳跟後到進入科教、工程技術、企業管理、文化藝術等白領階層展現才華的過程。

從就業的角度來看，大量的知識型華人進入高科技領域。在美國的硅谷，沒有一個與計算機有關的公司沒有雇用華人科技人員的。在法國的阿爾卡特、法國電信、布依華、羅地亞、法國電力公司等大公司以及眾多的中小公司中，華人工程師、技術人員的雇用率大大地增加，有的成為公司的技術骨干，有的成為關鍵部門的首席科學家，有的甚至進入了領導層。

外資大量進入中國市場後，許多公司到中國投資設廠都是依賴于大批海外知識型華人。他們常常在公司擔任部門經理，專門代表公司打點中國業務。

在美國，華人進入科技教育界比較早。但在歐洲，卻沒有這樣幸運。歐洲的移民政策和某些法律制度有限制，如法國在上世紀八十年代末

范波濤

之前都限定只有具有法國國籍的人才能申請大學和國家科研中心的職位，因為這些職位是國家公務人員。只是在八十年代末，修改後的法律才允許外籍人士競爭大學講師以上和國家科研中心助理研究員以上級別的職位。現在，已有許多改革開放之後來法的知識型華人進入大學和國家科研中心，而且這個群體還在不斷地擴大。

在文化藝術領域，一大批海外華人藝術家在國際舞台上展露才華，贏得國際聲譽。例如：音樂界的譚盾、馬友友、陳其鋼；美朮界的趙無極、陳逸飛、朱德群；電影界的李安、陳沖等。

在傳統的經商領域，許多華人由于本身是知識型，他們揚棄了華人傳統的家庭式經營方式，用現代管理手

段經商，使經營規模大大超過了以前。巴黎的陳克光、陳克威兄弟是成功的典型代表。他們經營的陳氏兄弟公司已進入法國公司排行榜的百強行列。英國利物浦的黃榮富先生具有碩士學位，他經營過餐飲業、超市，又成立了投資公司，業務多元化發展。

在參政上，華人的地位也在提高。因此，可以說，在海外，知識型華人群體的形成使整個華人地位得到了提高，改變了海外華人只能開餐館的狀況和在外國人眼中的形象。

知識型海外華人的作用

知識經濟的發展也使各國政府對人才培養的重視程度大大提高，人才的爭奪變得空前激烈。在美國，預測今後十年的科技人才將短缺一百六十萬到四百四十五萬。美國在今後的十年中將會加強人才市場上的爭奪。在歐洲，情況也十分類似，各國政府對人才的引進都制定了或將要出台一系列特殊政策，以求廣招高科技人才。

在這種環境下，知識型海外華人的作用更加突出。無論是在政界、商界，還是在科技教育界，這些知識型海外華人都活躍在上層社會，展現龍的傳人的風采。

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中國大陸、台灣本月入世貿組織 將為世界帶來經濟互依的新氣象

世界貿易組織(WTO)十日及十一日正式通過中國大陸與台灣申請入世案，WTO秘書長穆爾在九日開幕致詞時特別表示，兩岸入世對WTO是重要的歷史一刻。

前加坡資政李光耀在一次演講中指出，「中國大陸是世界上人口最多的國家，不但快速朝工業化邁進，而且即將加入世界貿易組織。」他說：「假如沒有中國大陸加入世界貿易組織的問題，我們將不會感受到壓力。以後中國大陸將以世界貿易組織會員國的身分，在全球經濟中和其他國家展開全面競爭。」

中國大陸和其主要貿易夥伴早於二零零一年九月十八日在日內瓦就加入WTO的條件達成協議，完成一九八六年以來首次展開的談判程序。預計十二月廿四日中國大陸可望成為世界貿易組織的第一百四十三個會員國。入世後中國大陸的承諾：在未來五年，保護中國大陸的關稅壁壘將被逐漸消除。外國銀行將有權利在中國大陸任何一地開設百分之百外資擁有的銀行，向當地人民提供銀行業務。花旗集團(Citigroup)的國際業務總經理奈羅·強生(Lionel Johnson)很興奮的說：「我們很高興，我們很快就有機會替中國人民服務，為造福中國大陸的消費者獻上一些力量。」外國的電訊公司可以直接擁有大部分的電訊業務。全球跨國企業有權在中國大陸設立自己的銷售網，不必再經由中國的中間商控制。

外國的汽車製造者可以在中國大陸任何地方，建造任何模型的汽車，並且可以建造自己的銷售網與修理服務站。

受中國大陸政府多年保護的通訊產品、電腦及半導體產品，在二零零五年時應全部免關稅進口。保護智慧財產權。

中國大陸入世對世界的影響：中國大陸入世將為全球貿易體系注入新活力，但是它也將帶給世界各地重大的衝擊。

墨西哥及南美諸國：中國大陸入世後，歐美諸國將廢除對中國大陸紡織業進口的限制。中國的紡織品將大量湧入歐美，勢必搶奪許多目前仍由墨西哥及南美諸國佔有的紡織市場。這些國家成千上萬的廉價工人將由更廉宜的中國工人替代。

馬來西亞、印尼、菲律賓及泰國諸東南亞國家：據ING霸菱銀行首席亞洲經濟學家康敦表示，東南亞諸國的經濟結構不夠靈活，使它們很難從貿易中獲得豐厚的利益，尤其是以較低成本生產的商品。康敦預料中國大陸加入WTO後，它的競爭力會更強，這些經濟小國將發現他們更難應付來自中國大陸的競爭壓力。當這些東南亞國家正迫切需要外來資金投資時，但大量外資卻湧到中國設廠，其中包括英特爾(Intel)、摩托羅拉(Motorola)及戴爾電腦(Dell Computer)。

台灣：台灣是中國大陸經濟起飛的受害者也是受益者。中國大陸經濟的崛起，搶走了許多本來屬於台灣的產業，尤其是半導體產品。數以萬計的高科技工作被吸引到中國大陸工人的手中，同時台灣的資金也大量流到中國設廠投資。根據台灣信託銀行的估計，目前在中國大陸設廠投資的台灣廠商已達五萬多家。這些在中國投資的台灣廠商是台灣經濟實力不可輕估的力量。

歐美諸國：由於從中國大陸進口之限額將被廢除，尤其是紡織業與一些日常用品，中國的產品將大量湧入歐美市場。但是歐美的金融業、鋼鐵業與汽車業也將無阻的進軍中國大陸。這些產業一向是受中國大陸政府保護的，要與歐美諸國的先進技術與優秀的企業管理競爭實為不易。

美國農業將喜獲一個廣大的市場，數以億噸計的穀類與大米將能輕易的登陸中國。根據美國農業部的估計，在

今後的十年，中國將進口價值七百三十億美元的農產品。目前中國已有一百萬的農民湧入城市找生活。這批流動的失業農民可能是中國大陸社會不安的根源，中國大陸入世後農民失業的問題會更加嚴重。根據大陸簽署的入世承諾，二零零三年起多達三分之二的信息產品、電腦、電子產品關稅將取消，二零零五年前則全部取消關稅，歐美諸國的信息產品可以免稅登陸，將直接威脅中國大陸信息產業的成長。中國大陸的信息產業是一新興產業，近年來已成為帶動中國大陸經濟增長的主要動力，對大陸國內生產總值(GDP)的

直接貢獻已超過了百分之十。中國大陸入世後那些缺乏技術創新能力的產品將被淘汰，此外一些處於起步及成長期的集成電路、通訊產品和一些零件產品可能被歐美諸國優質低價的產品取代。有些信息產業專家擔心中國大陸入世後，將有半數信息產業的國企面臨倒閉命運。

日本：中國大陸經濟起飛對日本是很大的威脅。今年稍早日本與中國大陸所發生的貿易衝突，就是因為東京決定對來自大陸的某些農產品課以額外費用而起。中國入世後日本從中國進口的產品將劇增，由於中國廉價的工人與建廠費用，日本也將把國內的許多工廠移到中國大陸從事生產業務，此外日本也將大量向中國大陸傾銷汽車、機械、通訊設備及電子零件。

軍事奇才兼政治家拿破崙已經預測到，有一天當中國睡醒時世界將會為之震動。中國大陸入世當是中國睡醒步入世界舞台之日，它的影響將震動世界每一個角落。(申湘如)

我和老高

貝嶺

我和高行健認識已逾十五年，記得那是在一九八三至一九八四年期間，他當時由於創作並公演了實驗性現代話劇「絕對信號」及「車站」，以及寫了《現代小說技巧初探》一書而在青年作家及文學藝術圈裏聲名大噪，我們當時是相識但並不相熟。

我們相熟則是在「傾向」文學人文雜誌創刊後的一九九六年，每次我到巴黎，我們長時間傾談，我都住在他家，我們也在紐約見面。

我稱他為老高，他雖比我大二十歲，可並無代溝，因為老高生命力不衰，我們可以徹夜長談，談文學、談現代漢語的演進，談流亡生涯中的幸與不幸，也談他的戲、他的畫，甚至談男人、女人。

老高抽煙，可不抽盒裝的，他倚荷蘭煙絲，有時，我們談著談著，突然無言，我看著老高細致而優雅地將煙絲捲成圓錐形的紙煙，偶爾，我也忍不住讓他替我捲一支，那時，我倆會突然緘默，往事如大海。

老高的側面輪廓令我印象深刻，在煙霧中，有時他顯得心事浩茫，偶爾，我們各抒己見，老高也固執，嘴角倔強地緊抵，我們的友誼是在時而無話不談，時而靜默無言中培養起來的。

作家常常無形，因為總是坐在家里，起居自由，孤處，不需要每天衣冠楚楚（或者衣冠禽獸般），他去上班或和別人打交道，故，作家容易懶散，寫作者的休息是由寫作狀態的好壞決定的。晝夜顛倒是作家的常態之一，老高也不例外，唯老高並不懶散，在他處暫住時，我在外奔忙一天回來，常聽他說今天又有進展，又寫了幾千字，或又琢磨出一張畫的意象和構圖，老高講到高興處也是欲罷不能，那是，我是他唯一的聽眾和觀眾。

舢舨雙週報十二月
個人理財專欄
敬請期待

總之，他強調自由、不勉強。如今，由於他的獲獎，流亡的大環境也許多少會有改善，一路撐難的撐下來的「傾向」雜誌，也許是欲罷不能了。

我辦「傾向」，他在道義上予以認同，也提供建議，出謀策劃，在一九九六年後，他定期給他最滿意的文稿，儘可能地予以支持，當我和孟浪等其他幾位同事堅持了幾年，發現難以為繼，撐不下去時，他也勸我不要硬撐。



(華美福利會建築班演習情形)

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「恐怖行動」已成為美國人掛在嘴邊的話題，屋漏偏逢連夜雨，九一一驚爆事件後，又一次在世界最富裕的城市：紐約，發生美國航空公司墜機事件。也令許多人重新思考死亡。空難事件的發生雖然機率非常低，但由於其致命率接近百分之百，近年來華裔社區居民為了自身與家人的保障，在購買機票或其他時候，詢問或購買相關保險的風氣愈來愈盛。

本地保險業者指出，若遭遇突來意外的死亡像是空難意外，可以獲得賠償的保險，包括人壽保險和意外死亡險，需要特別注意的是，旅遊險若不含意外死亡險的項目，發生意外身亡仍然無法獲得賠償。

Quotesth.com是一家可以向顧客提供九十家人壽保險公司保費的網上公司。負責人表示，十月比八月時的查詢率增加了百分之四十八。印第安納大學教授比利斯(Joseph Bell)表示，要

客戶購買人壽保險，通常要推銷員細心與耐性的解釋及等候，然後客戶才會考慮，因為「大多數人並不願意面對家庭經濟的責任」。但是印第安納的人壽保險推銷員賴斯爾(Jeff Reser)近日卻發現，猶豫不決的客戶愈來愈少。「現在在客人主動打電話約我們談，比我們打出去的電話還多。」

購買人壽保險的客戶也和以前不同，有很多二十到三十歲男性也開始查詢和索取資料。例如一名未婚人士因計劃參加賽車而打電話查詢。

保險的項目零零種種，十分瑣碎與複雜，社區民眾有時甚至對自身買保險一知半解，不曉得究竟意外發生時，能不能獲得賠償。

保險業者指出，人壽保險保障的是人命損失時的賠償，一般來說，民眾可以購買壽險，賠償金額就單為壽險的部

分，另外，也可以在壽險上附加意外險，也就是說，保人若是因意外狀況喪失生命，家屬可以獲得壽險加上意外險，約是兩倍金額的理賠，而通常意外險的負擔，每月是在十塊錢左右。

壽險外購買意外險的好處是，民眾不論是搭乘大眾交通工具，或是自己開車發生意外，大多意外險保險都會理賠，理賠的範圍較寬，沒有那麼嚴格的限制。簡單，假如保險公司要求您寫下受益人，就代表你買的保險包括了意外死亡險。

現時保險公司正尋找合適的方法把產品推出市場，有公司趁這段時間，提醒客戶考慮保險公司為他們提供的各種安排。雖然九一一事件後，有些保險公司的保費已有所增加，但杜蘭表示，人壽保險不同，保費可能會降低。「愈多人購買人壽保險，成本便愈平。這和傳統的經濟學不同，傳統經濟學是產品需求愈大，可能因供不應求而導致價錢上漲，人壽保險剛好相反。」

本月全美地方選舉 亞裔參選人各地傳捷報

六日在全美舉行的地方選舉中，許多華裔積極參政，參與各級多項選舉，各候選人當選的情況如下：麻州牛頓市議員馬惠美麻州今年一共有三位華裔參選公職，其中摩頓市的鄭偉波及昆士梁戰士均落選落選的兩位參選人，仍然雖敗猶榮，這兩個市鎮因有這兩位候選人的參選，刺激了當地亞裔居民的投票欲望，使登記投票的亞裔人士較往年增加。而競選連任的牛頓市(Newton)議員馬惠美，獲選連任。

紐約市首位華裔市議員劉醇逸來自台灣移民，民主黨籍的劉醇逸六日擊敗對手華許當選紐約市市議員，他在紐約市政治史上開創先例，成為紐約市贏得重要公職的第一位亞裔美國人。劉醇逸在六日深夜宣布勝選。他說，他將成為亞裔在市政府裡直接的代言人。

紐約威郡萊恩市議員朱嘉年紐約州威徹斯特郡萊恩市(Rye)六日晚破天荒產生第一位華裔民意代表朱嘉年(Franklin Chu)。

南加鑽石吧市議員張文彬再度競選南加州鑽石吧市(Diamond Bar)市議員的張文彬又傳捷報，蟬聯成功，仍為該市唯一華裔市議員。

生於台灣的朱嘉年在六日晚獲知當選萊恩市市議員後說：「這是威郡華裔在政治上的大勝利！」

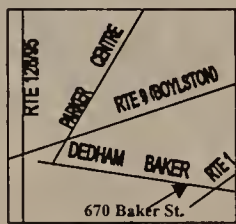
新州橋水市議員天佑多年來積極參與社區公共事務的華裔邢天佑，六日以第二高票當選新澤西州桑塞郡橋水市(Bridgewater)市議員，成為亞裔人口成長迅速的橋水市第一位亞裔民選官員。在台灣嘉義長大、台灣大學外文系畢業的邢天佑，目前從事電腦業。他在得知當選後，首先表示感謝社區華人對他的支持，他表示，未來他將設法在經濟發展和生活品質中求取平衡、減輕稅賦以及改善社區交通。

休士頓市議員關振鵬休士頓市議員關振鵬六日順利獲得連任。執業律師的關振鵬是第二代移民，他於兩年前初次競選休士頓不分區市議員席位即告當選，此次競選連任遭遇一位對手，開票情形他一路領先，當選連任。

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從波城來請走九號公路往有魯克蘭，從布魯克蘭(Brookline)走一號公路往南接VFW，看到Baker街右轉再直走約1,200尺，入口處在左邊。(如看到Home Depot就過了)

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在州立的雙語課程裏教書。另兩位共同主席是雀耳喜中學(Chelsea High School)的校長Rosalie Porter及波士頓大學政治系教授Christine Rossell。

Porter二年前開始對雙語教育感到

熱衷，並開始從事雙語教育的教授工作：「我開始教授雙語教育課程，因為我認為這個可以幫助新移民。事實上，在一九七一年起，麻州開始單一尺碼制度(One-size-fits-all)，法律規定在教育新移民學生的初期要用學生的母語教授，循序漸進地增加用英語的份量，減少用學生母語的份量。這樣可以讓學生一步一步地學習英語。但是，這個計劃中沒有機會讓學生學習英語。它並沒有按規定的百分之七十五及百分之二十五的比例來實行。它常常是百分之九十用學生本國的母語，百分之十用英語。假如你一天中用五、六個小時用西班牙語教小朋友數學，他們學英語的效率不會很快。就像你一個星期中只用兩個小時教小朋友數學，他們就會有更多的時間學英語。許多來上雙語教育課程的新移民兒童是來自貧窮的家庭，他們的父母的英語能力也不好。給予這些兒童本國語的治療教學，而延緩他們學英語的進度達二到四年之久，會讓這些兒童的學習進度跟不上。英語專注教育計劃的結構是非常嚴謹的。這些新移民兒童不會覺得是「半途插進去」的感覺，在這一年或兩年的時間，他們會學好英語。這個計劃將不同語言、不同背景的兒童聚集在一起，他們就會用英語互相溝通。學習英語的進度被耽誤地越久，學習英語的難度也會更加提高。」

學生的反應

東北大學二年級的學生Cindy Lau表示：「一年時間的專注英語教育可能太短了，所以我比較偏好傳統雙語教學的教育」。Cindy Lau自一九九七年從香港移民美國後在查理士頓高中(Charleston High School)開始接受雙語教育計劃。她表示，在英語課堂上學英語，但在其他的人文學科、電腦課、生物學、數學課都是用廣東話學習的。在查理士頓高中上高中第一年學業的Ada Lai是從香港移民至此，念八年級後開始接受雙語教育：「我比較偏好傳統的雙語教育。有時，你不知道這個

單字的意思在那裏，你可以用廣東話問你的老師。因為有時候，你不知道用英語怎麼問。」Lei一開始時七門課中有四門課用廣東話學習，三年後的現在仍有三門課用廣東話學習，即微積分、化學和美國歷史。

其他的意見

ONeil表示：「我個人認為最好是雙管其下」。在這些課程計劃裏，有幾天是以英語授課，有幾天是以學生的母語授課。然後這些以英語為母語的學生會學習到非英語學生的原居地母語，非英語學生也能學習到英語。在大波士頓劍橋區，就有類似這樣的英語與西班牙語的雙重學習環境。

根據Porter表示：「若這些新的提議變成了律法，這樣的雙語雙重學習環境將會繼續維持下去。新的律法允許雙管其下的方法及傳統雙語教學兼併，但是這樣會要求教學單位作額外的申請工作，以實施有別於專注教學的工作。現行的法律不允許有不同的選擇。」

有關麻州雙語教育的新的提議中，允許那些不能在一年內學好英語的學生，申請用自己母語的上課時間延長。然而，更只有在為數至少二十人申請這樣的課程延長計劃，教學單位才能提供用學生母語上課的時間延長計劃。Porter表示：「當然了，不是所有外國語言及所有不同水平的班別都能有效實施。」

專注英語教學，誰必需作決定？

ONeil強調他很關心的議題：這個新的教育計劃如何變成一個法律的過程。「在麻州，每兩年都有一個試圖改變舊有雙語教育的行動。假如這次進入選舉投票的，這樣的新議題會得到支持和通過的，尤其是在九一一事件以後（美國居民開始較關心有關新移民的議題）。這個州有個非常特出的結構，就是幾乎沒有地方控制(local control)。」

Porter ONeil很擔心這次會參與投票的人，並不是真正居住在這個擁有多數移民的區域的人。所以這些投票的人在這個議題上沒有什麼靈敏度。

Porter卻不是這樣認為：「我們是教育界的人士。這是個民主議題，我們認為有知識水平的人都有權力來作決定。在加州有百分之六十三的支持率，加州是全美國擁有最多移民人口的州。在亞利桑那州也通過了專注教育法令，在亞利桑那州有最多的西班牙語人口。」

如果新的法律通過，傳統雙語教育的老師如何應對？

UNA理念的支持者可以用一個很簡單的理由，來反對繼續原舊有的雙語教育制度：原舊有的雙語教育制度的老師怕丟掉工作，所以不願新的教育計劃被實行。但是UNA表示：「事實上，那些原有的雙語教育制度下的行政人員、教課書編輯者、老師並不會因新的制度實施，而丟掉原有的工作。你會發現原來的老師用英語教授原本所教授的科目。」

Porter表示「許多雙語教育的老師打電話或寫信給我，表示他們認為傳統雙語教育並不是一個有效的教學方法。他們沒有辦法公開表示他們的看法，因為容易被成為「教學的偏激份子」。我有足夠的背景為他們說話，因為當我到這個國家時，我也不懂英語。」Porter是在六歲的時候跟隨父母移民美國的，現在的她已會講四國語言。「我們已經給傳統的雙語教育三十年的時間了，我們應該給新到教育制度：專注教育至少五年時間吧！」



麻州州長提刪減預算案 包括裁員五千人計劃

為了要減少麻州州府日益膨脹的赤字，代理州長珍·史維特日前向州議會提出七億元的刪減預算提案。其中包括州府員工裁減五千人的計畫。經濟不景氣、麻州州府收入銳減，使得赤字數額高達十四億元。代理州長史維特提出的應對方案中，除了裁減相當於州府員工的百分之七的五千個工作職位外，還包括刪減九千六百萬元如社會福利、公共保健等社會服務經費，一億元對市鎮的補助款，以及二千萬元對麻州大學和州立學院的補助。

據波士頓環球報報導，麻州是全美至今唯一尚未通過本年度預算的州。州議會應於一百三十多天前，就把經費計畫送至州長辦公室。這是一九六零年代以來，最嚴重的預算案拖延案。

史維特的提案，需由州議會通過。至於刪減經費方案的裁員部分，可能會是哪些部門，目前尚不清楚，但州府預算主管表示，州長希望以鼓勵員工提早退休的方式縮減人事費用。刪減地方補助金中，麻州各市鎮中小學校教育經費將減少三千四百萬元。刪減社會服務金方面，也盡量避免直接影響到家庭和兒童的州府服務項目。

國會議員提出振興全國經濟刺激方案企業界提出了新稅率，部分州長表示結果可能造成四十四個與聯邦政府企業扣稅代碼相同的州府被迫跟著減稅。雖然對納稅者而言這是個好消息，但是部份州長以為將可能導致州政府不得不立即裁減員工並減少州

政府的部份服務工作。

目前眾議院版本已經通過，但參議院版本仍為懸案的該項法案，雖然兩院仍有歧見，但兩院亦都同意提高聯邦對企業界購置設備的免稅額，這些在聯邦稅上的降低都會導致州稅減少。根據預算與策略優先中心(Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)，亦即一家位於華府的研究團體預估，眾議院的版本可能會使州稅收入一年減少五十億元，參議院的版本則可能減少州政府一年的稅收。

移民局執法與服務職責分開 以達加強反恐恐怖主義任務

美國司法部部長艾希克羅十四日宣布改組移民歸化局的計畫，將在三十天內開始將移民歸化局的執法與服務職責劃分開來，以達成加強反恐恐怖主義的任務，並且履行布希總統在競選期間所提改善美國移民制度效率的保證。

艾希克羅表示，移民歸化局將在二零零三會計年度結束之前，完成劃分為執法與服務兩大部門的改組計畫，但是移民歸化局仍將統一指揮這兩項工作。

美國國會原已有意將移民歸化局分成兩個各自獨立的單位，分別負責執法與服務的業務，或是根本將移民歸化局裁撤。批評者早已抱怨移民歸化局的服務效率不彰，並且形成累贅。

在此同時，艾希克羅已加強移民安全措施，以遏阻恐怖份子嫌犯進入美國。他指出，美國移民局的目的應當是歡迎希望對美國有所貢獻的外來者，而不歡迎希望摧毀美國的外國人。

司法部長強調，「我們今天採取的移民機構改組工作，將使移民歸化局對我們的敵人提供更大的障礙。」

艾希克羅表示，移民歸化局也將能拘留和遣返已經進入美國的外國恐怖份子。他說：「根據今天宣布的改組計畫，移民歸化局將繼續協助前來美國的新

達二十億元。全國州長協會最近亦引證該中心對眾議院版本的數據，向參議院致信要求，希望參議院的領導者能減少州政府的降稅幅度，同時增加州政府在醫療保險上的補助基金。全國州府預算官員協會的預估則是：目前州府預算的短少金額已經達到一百五十億元，同時因為九一一恐怖事件的影響，預算赤字額還會增加。

外籍人士出門 必攜帶有效證件

移民，並且提供服務。移民歸化局也將是我們努力阻止從事或是支持恐怖份子活動的外國人，進入我們國家的重要一環。美國國務院目前已對來自阿拉伯與回教國家申請簽證的年輕男子增加多等待二十天，以加強背景調查的規定，作為反恐恐怖主義努力的一部分。司法部也希望訊問已經進入美國的大約五千名阿拉伯與回教男子。

政府部門對機場的安全措施的要求十分的嚴格，同時美國律師協會也接到幾個報告，指出有些持有非移民簽證身份者在搭乘美國國內航線時，被要求要提出在美合法停留的證明文件。如果有任何一個外國人違反這項規定將可以處美金一百元以下的罰金或拘留三十天以內。

我們提醒持有非移民簽證人士隨身攜帶以下證明文件：I-94入境記錄卡、I-95機票或船員登陸許可、I-151表、I-185表、I-186、I-221、I-221S、I-551綠卡、I-688、I-688A、I-688B、I-766卡、及護照、簽證等。

由於在機場至少有兩個以上的事件，移民局官員在機場詢問登機者的資料時，要求他們提出護照、I-94及I-797等資料，並要求他們隨身攜帶這些證明文件來證明他們的身份。

封面故事

傳統雙語教育是否繼續
正反雙方各持己見

在明年(西元兩千零二年)十一月的選舉季節,麻州居民要用投票的方式來決定一個最好的英語教學方法,來教育新移民兒童。顯然地,這不是個容易的決定。麻州居民可以選擇已實行三十年之久的過渡雙語教育(Transitional Bilingual Education),或是脫離現行體制而選擇新的教育政策:英語專注教育(English immersion program)。雙方的支持者都認為自己所贊同的方法對新移民兒童學習英語是最有效的。到底那一個比較好?只有你能決定,現在請您花幾分鐘的時間閱讀以下的文章,來和我們一起分析這兩種體制的不同。

自從一九七一年,麻州法律規定:學校裏若有二十位以上有英語障礙的新移民兒童,而這些兒童卻說同樣的語言(如中文普通話或廣東話),學校委員會必需成立所謂的「過渡雙語教育課程(transitional bilingual education)」。每位新移民學生都必需接受這個特殊的訓練達三年,或者直到他有能力證明有足夠的英語水平為止。在過渡雙語教育課程初期,約有百分之七十五的課程是用學生的母語教授,而百分之二十五的課程是用英語教授。第二年,用學生的母語與用英語教授的課程的比例就各佔百分之五十。到了第三年,用學生母語教授的課程只剩下百分之二十五,用英語教授的課程達百分之七十五。在第四年,或是等學生的英語能力達到成熟之際,就會與一般美國學生混班一起上正式的課程。

明年十一月,麻州居民若用投票選擇新的教育方法:英語專注教育(English immersion program),原來的傳統過渡雙語教育的執行就將宣告結束。近年來,擁有不少移民的加州及亞利桑那州,就選擇了新的教育方式。英語專注教育(English immersion program)取代了原先執行的過渡雙語教育課程。千禧年軟件(millennaire software entrepreneur)承包商 Ron Unz 以實際行動在加州支持英語專注教育,現在他也以同樣的行動在麻州支持這樣的教育改革。他的支持行動是希望有英語障礙的學生接受庇護式(sheltered)的英語專注教育,班上的同學雖然都是同樣有英語障礙的新移民兒童,但是上課仍用英語,不在任何一種學生原居地的母語。當學生的英語程度達到足夠的水平(a good working knowledge of English)他就可以轉到以美國主流社會的兒童為主的正常課堂上了。

希望廢除傳統的雙語教育的 Ron Unz 解釋:傳統的雙語教育並不是一個有效的教育方法。學生應該在一個完全的英語的學習環境下至少約一年,然後在繼續一般的課程。

但是希望保持現行的雙語教育的人士,並不以為然。波士頓公立學校的雙語及多元文化教育專家 Kevin Moy 表示:「能在一年內將英語學好,真是感謝神的保守了。」Moy 害怕那些新移民學生不能在很快的時間內學好英語,在進度上落後其他的同學。Moy 希望保持原來到雙語教育,然後在這個根基上有所改善。



支持新教育制度的 Ron Unz

Moy 表示:「麻州是雙語教育的發源地,中英雙語教育在此實施已有三十年之久。」麻省理工學院的心智清晰計劃(Mind Articulation Project)的主任兼語言學教授 Wayne O'Neil 也害怕 Unz 的專注教育理念將現行的制度推翻:「一年的英語專注教育是不足夠的,大概要花七年的時間才能將一個語言學好。」

所以,Unz 只是一個富裕的加州商人,而沒有實際的教育經驗卻想改變現有的雙語教育的人嗎?事實上並不是那麼簡單,Unz 在財務、政治上支持這樣的教育理念,但是幫忙寫企畫案的三個共同主席都是教育家、研究學者及實踐家。共同主席之一是 Rosalie Porter 是「雙語教育制度批判(Forked Tongue: The Politics of Bilingual Education)」一書的作者,更在一九七四年起

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Dear Life Advice® Columnist:
I contribute the maximum amount to my 401(k) plan annually, but am now looking at additional methods of saving for my retirement. Some of my have purchased annuities but I'm confused about the difference between deferred and immediate Can you explain this in simple terms?
-Terminology Twisted

Dear Terminology Twisted:
There is nothing simple about any financial decision so it's always wise to consult a professional financial advisor before you make a decision. That said, to get a better understanding of the basic concepts, you can look to the actual names of the annuities. Just as it sounds, you can expect an immediate annuity to start delivering an income payment almost immediately (usually within a month). In exchange for a lump sum purchase payment, you can receive a guaranteed income for the rest of your life, or whatever period of time you select, paid out to meet

your unique needs on a monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual basis. And although you will also be taxed on the payment in the year received, if you purchase the annuity with after-tax dollars, you will be taxed only on with the part that is considered earnings, not on the portion considered principal. Unlike an immediate annuity, a deferred annuity does not provide you with income now, but rather at a later date - usually not until you are at least 59 1/2 years old. And, although you can pay for a deferred annuity in a lump sum, some contracts allow you to stretch out your purchase payments using a regular or even an irregular payment plan. You don't pay taxes on your earnings until you start to withdraw your money, at which time you might be in a lower tax bracket.

Dear Life Advice Columnist:
We are in our mid-thirties and beginning to look at our finances after retirement. We are considering purchasing annuities for retirement savings. What factors should we consider?
-Looking to the Future

Dear Looking to the Future:
The answer to any question relating to a financial decision is, "it depends." It depends on your financial position at the moment, your financial needs for the future friends and what you can afford to lose. Annuities are designed for retirement savings, and you didn't say whether you're contributing to a 401(k) or similar plan that uses pretax dollars. Most annuities are "nonqualified" and

therefore purchased with post-tax dollars. There are a number of other factors about annuities that you may want to consider:

- Annuities are not federally guaranteed. Fixed annuities are only as viable as the financial health of the company that issues them. If you purchase a variable annuity, some funding options are tied to the performance of the portfolios underlying the investment divisions of a separate account, and you could lose not only your earnings, but your principal as well.
- You can be penalized 10%—in addition to paying regular taxes - if you withdraw funds before you reach age 59 1/2.
- Subject to changes in tax regulations, your earnings from annuities may be taxed as ordinary income.
- Certain types of annuity payments may not keep pace inflation.
- There are extra expenses, such as surrender fees, that can actually outweigh by your tax benefits.

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